

REMARKS

Claims 15 – 19, 22 – 24, 26, 28 – 31 and 33 are now in the application. In the most recent Office Communication, objection was raised to the title and to the drawing. The title has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion. The objection to the drawing was based on a request to label the boxes in figures 1 and 2 as to function, and a Replacement Sheet responsive to the objection is provided per the Examiner's request.

All of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for having been directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are now amended, without addition of any new matter, to more clearly and certainly define statutory subject matter.

Independent claim 15 is now directed to an "electric power system" which includes, among other features, "a power plant block" and "a device, including a computer system ..."

Independent claim 29 is now directed to a "method for monitoring a system of the type including a power plant block" and includes, among other features,

"acquiring system data during operation of the power plant block ...
providing the data to a computer system ...[and] using the data to exercise a dynamic model of at least one system of the power plant block to provide output data indicative of plant operation ..."

It is respectfully submitted that all of the independent claims now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101.

In addition it is submitted that claim 15 and the claims which depend therefrom are distinguished at least because they each define a combination which includes:

"implementing at least one algorithm based on artificial intelligence, that searches for dependencies or correlations among data received by the device, for integrating into the dynamic model new correlations ... to improve the dynamic model ... thereby enabling provision of output data indicating changes in current or future operational behavior of the power plant block."

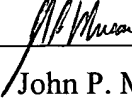
It is also submitted that claim 29 and the claims which depend therefrom are distinguished at least because they each define a combination which includes:

modifying the dynamic model ... with at least one algorithm ... that searches for dependencies or correlations ... by integrating into the dynamic model new correlations ... and providing the output data ... to characterize current or future operational behavior ...”

Accordingly applicants submit that the claims now present patentable subject matter and respectfully request allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: replacement drawing sheet 1 of 2